



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2016

Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore MD

CEHPAC MEMBERS: Dr. D. Abney (phone), Del. Angela Angel (staff), V. Carrella; Dr. G. Diette; Sen. Guzzone (staff – phone); Dr. B. Gitterman (phone); R. Hofstetter; J. Levy; Dr. E. Matsui; A. Mezu; Dr. J. Miller; Dr. C. Mitchell; B. Thomas (phone); N. Witherspoon (phone)

GUESTS: C. ECKARD (PHONE); Juliana Bilowich – MD PIRG; Dr. Bryan Rogoff; A. Rich – MD Environmental Health Network; T. Scarato; X. Walker – JH Preventive Medicine Resident/DHMH

STAFF: R. HESS-MUTINDA, DHMH

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Mitchell opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions.

Review and Approval of Minutes

A quorum was present and Minutes from 2015 were accepted and approved.

PRESENTATION – Dr. Xaviour Walker – *Children's Computer Usage in Classrooms*

Dr. Walker summarized some of the current literature around children, computers in classrooms, and potential health impacts. Council members asked about data related to obesity and computer use, and noted that the inclusion of speculative health impacts might dilute the prevention message for some of the stronger data. Members of the public provided additional comments:

- C. Eckard provided background on current legislation addressing this issue
- B. Rogoff, physician, provided general information about computer over usage including dry eyes, myopia increase, posture, bluelight effects, sleep, and obesity
- T. Scarato: Computer usage by children is a whole health issue affecting all aspects of child life

GENERAL DISCUSSION

➤ Update on Synthetic Turf Fields

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Contact: Rachel Hess-Mutinda

410-767-2196 or Rachel.hess-mutinda@maryland.gov

Dr. Mitchell stated that a bill for warning signs on turf fields for health submitted; Federal research project on crumb rubber fields characterizing risk and health consequence to be released in later 2016.

LEGISLATION

➤ **HB 1524 COMPUTER HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

Dr. Mitchell asked group: Is there sufficient evidence that MSDE and DHMH should create guidelines? Dr. Mitchell will craft w/ V. Carrella; MOTION: All approved, no Nay, Abstain by Chairs (x2)

➤ **HB 1391 GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS IN CHILD CARE**

A hearing was held on 3/07/16 w/ friendly amendments added; MOTION: 2012 CEHPAC letter should be updated w/ minor changes and submitted- All approved, no Nay, Abstain by Chairs (x2)

➤ **HB 883 Synthetic Turf Fields – Informational Signs**

CEHPAC letter reviewed; suggestion to add that pesticide application law needs to be a part of any artificial turf field law. Discussion from group also included that the suggested signs are so general that a) could be alarmist and b) could be good for just general information for both turf and natural fields. V. Carrella suggested that the letter should be Letter of Information, not Letter of Support; MOTION: Letter of Information that there should be continue review of turf fields noting concerns of exposure including use of pesticides – All approved, no Nay, Abstain by Chairs (x2) and Dept of Ag rep.

➤ **HB 750 Public Schools Electronic Smoking Devices**

V. Carella gave summary of bill; Dr. Mitchell suggested amendment to ban use of electronic smoking devices on school grounds; MOTION: passed All approved, no Nay, Abstain by Chairs (x2).

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Next CEHPAC meetings: May 24th, July 20th, September 19th, November 14th